

**PROFILES IN
LEADERSHIP**
FROM 19TH CENTURY

INVENTORS
PHYSICIANS
SCIENTISTS



INTRODUCTION

- Black history is American history and should represent blacks' contributions in every American history milestone.
- In 1978, the Postal Service initiated the Black Heritage stamp series, to recognize the achievements of individual African Americans. More than 140 blacks have been honored in this stamp series.
- YAAHA uses these stamps and other illustrations for the **Profiles in Leadership** series to honor African Americans' contributions to American history.



LEWIS TEMPLE

1800-1854

Lewis Temple was born as a slave in Richmond, Virginia.

Temple worked as a blacksmith and had no experience in the whaling industry, but he knew how dangerous the harpooners' job was. Many blacks served on whaling ships because it offered significant opportunities for employment.

Temple invented a harpoon with a spinning head that could pivot on the axle and prevent the whale from releasing the harpoon by thrashing.

His harpoon, 'Temple's Toggle,' was "the single most important invention in the whole history of whaling."

Unfortunately, Lewis Temple did not patent his invention and others copied his invention.





ELIJAH MCCOY 1843-1929

Elijah invented fifty products.

His most famous invention was the graphite lubricator cup that automatically lubricated moving parts on steam engines.

Other inventors tried to copy his invention, but the public wanted the “real McCoy.”



LEWIS LATIMER

1848-1929

Lewis Latimer's parents were runaway slaves, and Lewis was captured only to be bought and released by abolitionists.

He joined the U.S. Navy during the Civil War at fifteen years old and received an honorable discharge in July 1865.

He became an excellent draftsman and inventor.

He invented the water closet for trains and in 1894 created a safety elevator.

He improved Thomas Edison's light bulb by inventing a longer lasting filament. Edison's original lightbulb had a short life of only a few days.



SARAH BOONE

1832-1904

Sarah Boone was the daughter of slaves; she married a free black man.

Sarah was a very successful dressmaker who owned her own home.

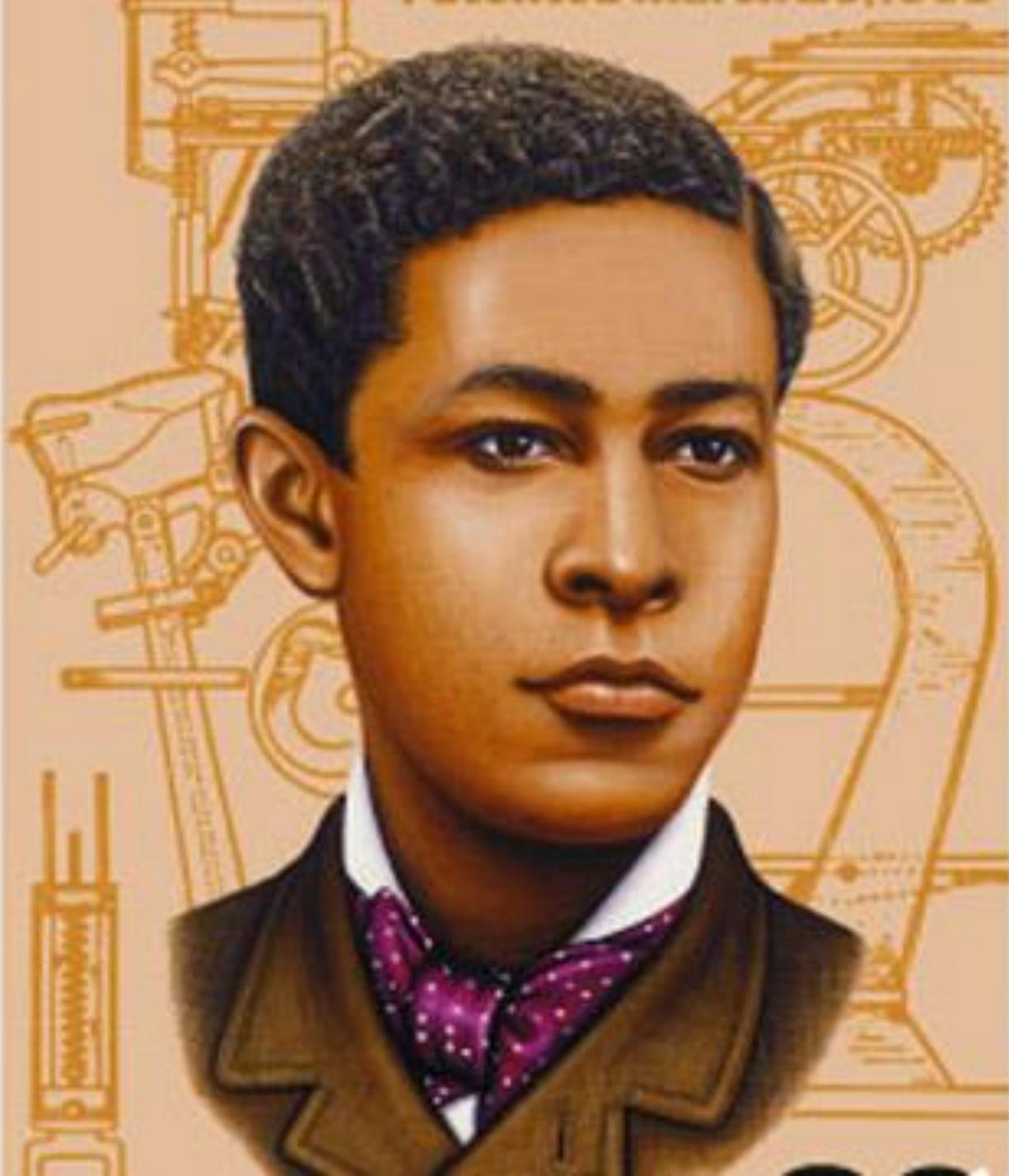
She had difficulty ironing sleeves and the bodies of women's garments using a table or a plank between two chairs.

Boone designed a wooden board with collapsible legs to make the first ironing board to neatly iron clothes.

She applied for her own patent and received it on April 26, 1892.

Sarah was one of the first African Americans to receive a patent.





JAN E. MATZELIGER

1852-1889

Jan was of Surinamese and Dutch descent, born in Dutch Guiana.

When he arrived in the U.S., he began working as a cobbler and apprenticed at a shoe factory.

At that time, there was no way to attach the upper part of the shoe to the sole, it was done by hand, by “shoe lasters.”

He patented his shoe laster machine to produce 700 pairs of shoes a day instead of only 50 a day by hand.



GEORGE MURRAY

1853-1926

George spent the first thirteen years of his life as a slave. He graduated from State Normal Institute in Columbia, SC. He was a teacher, farmer, land developer, and an inventor. He secured patents for eight of his inventions that were a direct result of his experience as a farmer.

One of his patents was for a cotton-chopping device.

In 1892, George was elected to the U.S. Congress as a Republican representative for South Carolina. He made sure that black inventors' successes were read into the Congressional Record.

George was the sole black representative in the fifty-third Congress between 1893-1895.





GRANVILLE T. WOODS

1856-1910

He was born in Columbus, OH.

Woods was known as the “Black Thomas Edison.”

He spent his early years in school until the age of 10 and was a self-taught engineer.

He received 60 patents for his work, and inventors such as Thomas Edison tried to claim some of his work. He was the first black mechanical and electrical engineer after the Civil War.



DR. DANIEL HALE WILLIAMS

1856-1931

Daniel apprenticed as a shoemaker in Baltimore, and later moved to Illinois to open his own barber shop.

He worked as an apprentice to physician Dr. Henry Palmer. He later entered what is now known as Northwestern University Medical School, in 1880.

In 1883, he opened his own office in Chicago, Illinois. His careful detail to using emerging antiseptic methods made him a leader in medicine.

He established Provident Hospital & Training School Association in 1891 and used an interracial staff. His hospital had an 87% success rate which was unheard of at that time.

He was the first physician to perform open heart surgery.



**GEORGE WASHINGTON
CARVER
1864-1943**

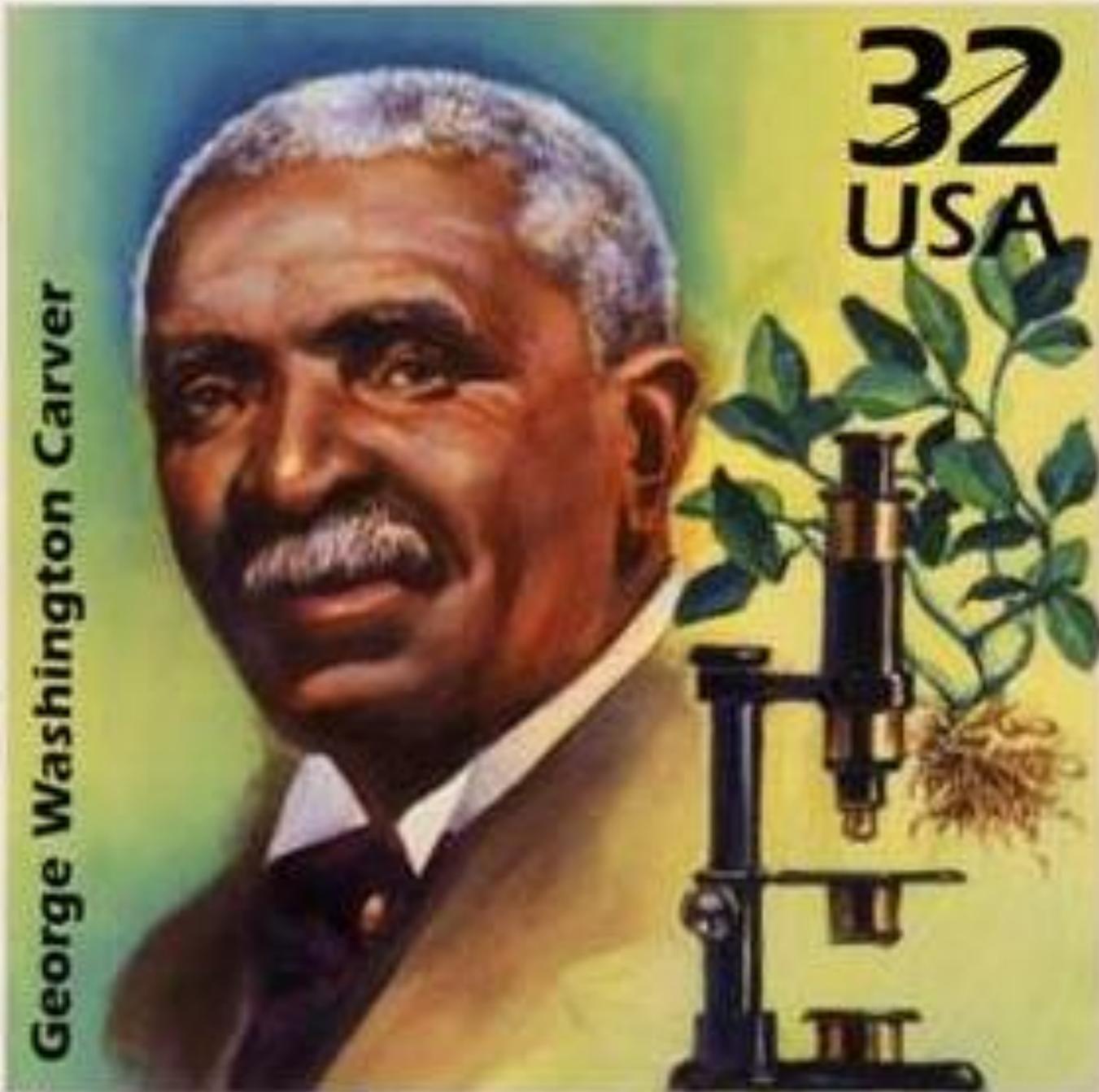
One of the most celebrated agricultural scientists and inventors of all times.

In 1887, he was accepted into Simpson College in Iowa, then transferred to Iowa Agricultural College. He received a master's degree in 1896.

Booker T. Washington recruited him to teach at Tuskegee Institute.

Carver created 300 products produced from peanuts, examples: ink, facial cream, shampoo, and soap.

George Washington Carver



1998





MADAM C.J. WALKER

ENTREPRENEUR
PHILANTHROPIST
SOCIAL ACTIVIST

She was born Sarah Breedlove in 1867 to former slaves working as sharecroppers.

She lived with her sister, later ran away at 14 and married soon after. In 1885, she gave birth to a daughter. Her first husband was lynched by a white mob.

Her stressful life caused her hair to fall out. She created a formula to grow hair that she shared with friends, when practically no black hair care was available.

She moved to Denver and married Charles Joseph C.J. Walker who had creative marketing skills. They established Madam C.J. Manufacturing Company and advertised in black newspapers. She became the first black woman millionaire. She died in 1919.



DR. MARY E. BRITTON

1855-1925

Mary was an educator, suffragist, journalist and civil rights activist.

She fought for race and gender equality and was the daughter of a former slave. Her father was of Spanish and Native American descent.

She became a teacher and was one of the first members to join the Kentucky State Association of Colored Teachers in 1877.

Mary retired in 1897 at the age of 42 and decided to pursue a medical degree. She attended the American Missionary College of Medicine in Chicago.

After graduation, she returned to Lexington, Kentucky and practiced medicine for 28 years until her death in 1925.



GEORGIA A. LEE PATTON

1864-1900

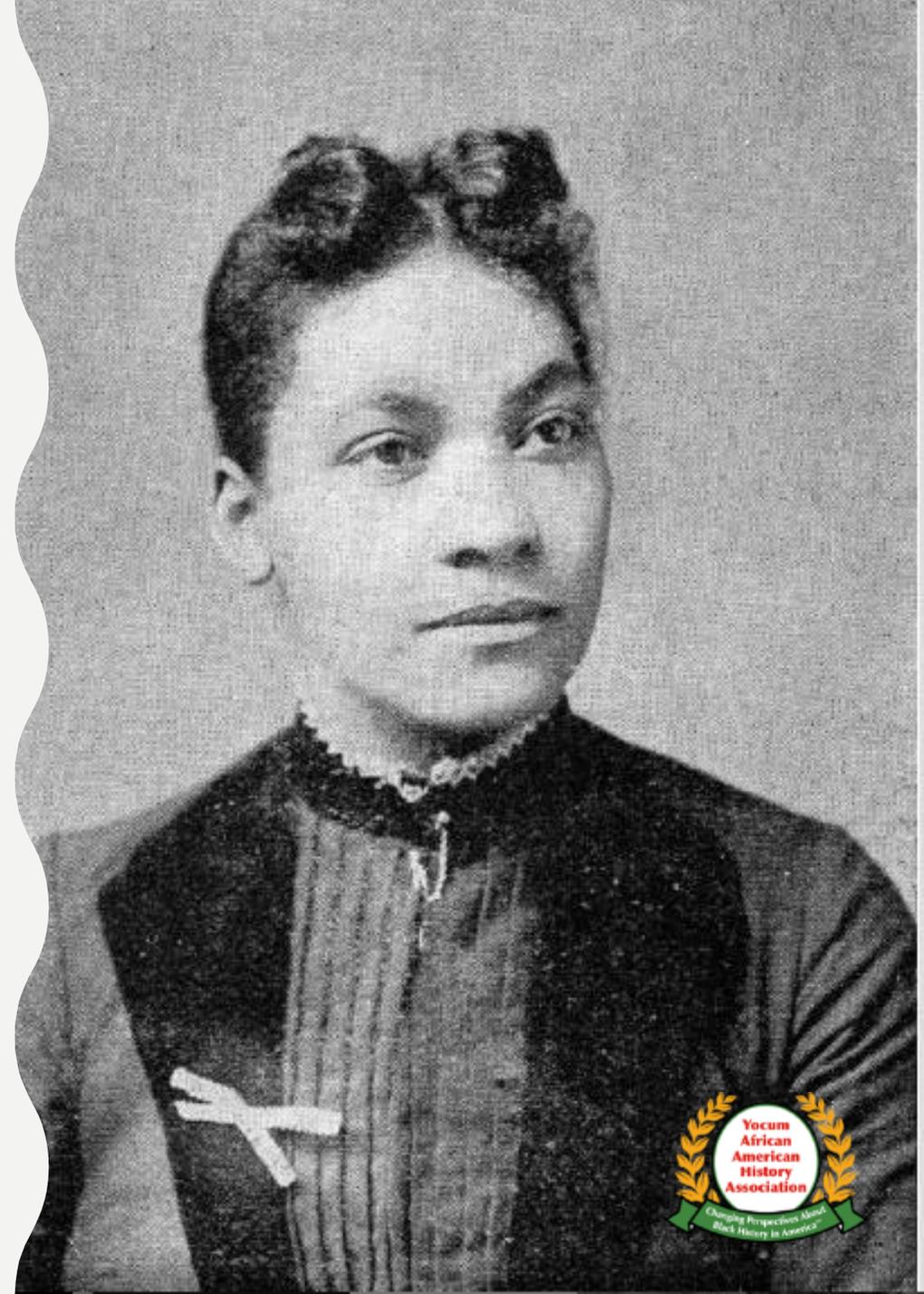
Georgia was born as a slave; her mother moved the family to Coffee County, Tennessee after the death of her husband and worked as a laundress until her death in 1880.

Georgia was able to complete high school, and with the help of her siblings was sent to Central Tennessee College in Nashville.

She graduated in 1890, and in 1893 earned her medical degree from Meharry Medical Department of Central Tennessee College.

She went to Liberia as a missionary and used her medical skills there for two years. On her return to America, she contracted tuberculosis.

She later opened practice in Memphis, Tennessee and was the first black woman licensed as a doctor and surgeon in Tennessee.



OTHER NOTABLE PHYSICIANS AND SCIENTISTS

- **Dr. Susan Smith McKinney (1847-1918)** was a physician and author and the third African American to earn a medical degree in U. S., and first in the state of New York. She graduated from the New York Medical College for Women in 1870. She was the most successful practitioner in her time.
- **Josephine A. Silone (1859 -1912)** was a chemist and one of the first black professors hired at Lincoln University. She studied physiology and physics at the age of nine.
- **Dr. Consuello Clark (1865-1910)** graduated from the School of Medicine at Boston University.
- **Dr. Ida Grey (1867-1953)** was a graduate of the University of Michigan in 1890. She was the first black dentist in the United States and her practice had equal numbers of white and black patients.



SUMMARY

- Black history is American history and should represent blacks' contributions in every American history milestone. Despite obstacles of prejudice and unspeakable atrocities, blacks made invaluable contributions to American history.
- There are abundant black leaders in the fields of science and research, who by their ingeniousness and fortitude, revolutionized every facet of our lives. We are indebted to them for what they have accomplished.
- YAAHA is proud to present the **Profiles in Leadership** series to honor African Americans' contributions to American history.

